

The University of Oklahoma  
**ENG 1213 Syllabus: Principles of English Composition II**

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**Course Description:** This course serves as your introduction to academic argumentation and research. Emphasizing argument primarily as an ongoing conversation involving both "listening" to other viewpoints and "responding" with your own claims and evidence, our course should equip you with the skills to unpack complex texts and also the tools to produce your own substantive, sophisticated arguments. Our assignments will require you to regularly practice and hone your craft of writing, both through careful revision of your work and through rethinking your viewpoint through diligent research. Like the practice of any sport, musical instrument, or hobby, academic writing will require practice, guidance, and constructive criticism. Feedback you receive from the Writing Center, a peer, or me should not be regarded as a discouragement but as an exciting step towards improvement in cultivating your skills. The famed novelist Stephen King puts it this way: "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There is no way around these two things that I am aware of, no shortcut."

Our course has four lesson units and a peer review participation component. These lesson units cumulate and build upon each other. In the early lessons, you will begin by summarizing texts and analyzing other writers' arguments, but the advanced units require you to craft your own arguments and clearly articulate your position with nuance and compelling evidence.

### Required Texts:

Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *"They Say/ I Say": The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing, With Readings*. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 2015.  
[ISBN: 978-0-393-93751-0]

**Assignments:** Follow all written instructions carefully and punctually, starting with the pre-course assignments listed online. (If you do not complete these, you cannot access course content.) Complete all assignments step-by-step, annotating your reading and making notes about key ideas as you go. Keep a backup copy on file of each written assignment you turn in. You are responsible for your success in this course.

### Document Preparation

You are expected to produce high-quality professional college documents. The grading criteria for assignments include how well a document is formatted and delivered. These criteria take into account both grammar and visual appearance (or what one of my college professors once called "the cosmetics of the document"). Please familiarize yourself with MLA format, which you can find using the excellent resource of the Online Purdue Writing Center:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

It is especially crucial that you understand the rules for properly citing your sources in-text and within the Works Cited Page at the bottom of your writing assignments. Taking ownership of accurately attributing your sources is part of academic integrity and your ethos as a writer. Those who do not follow MLA standards for citation will be charged with severe penalties for plagiarism.

### **Academic Integrity & Student Code of Conduct**

An important part of your writing education is understanding the ethics of attributing your sources properly. The most common violation of academic integrity in composition courses is *plagiarism*, which the Provost of OU ([integrity.ou.edu](http://integrity.ou.edu)) has defined as:

- Copying words and presenting them as your own writing.
- Copying words (even if you give the source) without indicating that they are a direct quotation by enclosing them in quotation marks.
- Copying words and then changing them slightly or substituting synonyms (even if you give the source).
- Presenting someone else's ideas as your own, even if you change the wording.
- Submitting the same work for more than one course, unless you have the express permission of both instructors.

Violations of academic integrity carry penalties up to and including expulsion from the university. Because I take academic integrity and your identity as an ethical writer seriously, I use [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) to check that you are properly attributing your sources to other writers. Severe penalties will result if you are found to have plagiarized in our assignments. If you have questions about plagiarism and what it is or isn't, please contact me before submitting any assignments. Furthermore, as a student at the University of Oklahoma you are expected to follow the code of student integrity. Please visit <http://integrity.ou.edu> and familiarize yourself with the code.

### **Late policy**

Please prioritize our course by turning in your work punctually. You will be penalized as follows for late submissions:

- Late essays submitted up to 24 hours after the deadline will be penalized ten points.
- Late essays submitted up to three complete days will be penalized 20 points
- Assignments submitted more than 72 hours after the deadline will no longer be accepted and will receive a zero.

### **Email**

If you have any questions about assignments or your writing, please don't hesitate to e-mail me. The virtual nature of our course may spark many questions, and I will make myself as available as possible to your queries. In return, please check your own OU email frequently, as I may send out reminder emails or important news.

### **Document Delivery & Information Retrieval**

All of your assignments will be submitted via an electronic dropbox on D2L. Click on the tab for "Dropbox" at the top of the page to find the submission page, and make sure to submit your

revision guide in the appropriate dropbox as well. I also communicate course information frequently through the newsfeed of D2L, so you will need to check your D2L account regularly and familiarize yourself with its features. If you have any questions regarding D2L or difficulties with uploading your compositions, do not hesitate to email or ask me for help.

Some research in this course may require access to the Internet. Make certain that your OU ID number is in the library system. Your OU ID is usually the same as your D2L log in. It is your 4x4 (the first four letters of your last name and the last four numbers of your student ID). I have provided a more thorough guide on how to use the library's online site and how to begin online research on our "Writing Resources" page.

## **Peer Review**

An integral part of our course, which informs both your paper grades and your final participation grade issued at the semester's end, is your involvement in peer review. Good writing is never achieved on the first draft, so our course will especially emphasize the importance of receiving constructive criticism from fellow peers and using that feedback to refine your papers into something excellent. The act of peer reviewing another's paper strengthens your editorial eye as a writer, and using peer review in our course will help us to simulate a real classroom interaction.

Here is a brief summary of the Peer Review Process:

Each unit of our course comprises two assignments: a minor "A" assignment and a major "B" assignment. You will only peer review "B" assignments, and thus you will only participate in peer review four times during the semester.

For each major "B" Assignment, you will be assigned a new peer to send and swap your rough draft with on the assigned deadline. You can find and contact your peer using the "Roster" tab on D2L. Once you have swapped papers, you will fill out the appropriate Revision Guide (found under the "Content" tab) and send back this completed document to help your peer revise his/her paper. In the event that your peer does not respond or send you their paper, you are responsible to find a peer near you (a parent, roommate, friend, etc.) to fill out the Revision Guide as they read over your paper.

Once you have received feedback via the completed Revision Guide, critically decide which changes you would like to make your "B" assignment and revise accordingly until you are satisfied with the final product.

You will also fill out a brief survey detailing your experiences with your peer and detailing how you used the feedback (i.e. Did you receive your feedback in a timely/complete manner? How did you implement your peer's advice?). I will use these surveys and look over the completed Revision Guides to determine you and your peer's Peer Review Participation Grade at the end of the semester.

In sum, *when you turn in your final "B" assignment, you will put 3 documents in the dropbox: your final revised paper, the completed Revision Guide you received from your peer, and the survey detailing your peer review experience.*

**Units and Participation:** This course has 4 units. Each unit has written assignments to be sent in for grading. One hundred points of your grade also result from your Peer Review Participation Grade, which is assessed at the end of the semester using the Peer Experience Surveys from various students and the Revision Guides you filled out for peers.

**Grading:**

Below is a table showing the points that can be earned for the assignments and exams:

<b>Unit 1: Understanding What "They Say"</b>	Points
Academic Integrity Quiz	25 points
"Writing Resources" Quiz	50 points
Assignment 1A	50 points
Assignment 1B*	100 points
<b>Unit 2: Developing The "I Say"</b>	
Assignment 2A	50 points
Assignment 2B*	100 points
<b>Unit 3: Personal Voice &amp; Outside Research</b>	
Assignment 3A	50 points
Assignment 3B*	100 points
<b>Unit 4: Revision &amp; Further Research</b>	
Assignment 4A	50 points
Assignment 4B*	100 points
<b>Peer Review Participation Grade</b>	100 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>775 points</b>

\*Each Final B assignment includes 3 documents: your Final Paper after revising according to peer review feedback, the completed Revision Guide you received from your assigned peer, and your completed Peer Review Experience Survey. All of these documents are accessible under the "Content" tab of D2L.

The grading scale is as follows:

698-775 points = A

620-698 points = B

543-620 points = C

465-543 points = D

0-464 points = F

**Problems or Questions:** If you have course content related questions, please email your instructor (Email address in D2L Roster). If something isn't working right in D2L, email cidldev@ou.edu with a description of the problem and the course you are in.

**Special Needs:** OU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students who require accommodation are requested to speak with the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodation. 166 Goddard Health Center, 325-3852, <http://drc.ou.edu>.

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center at OU is a resource I encourage you to use. Although you may not be able to travel to campus, they have an online feedback program you can also use as a "sounding board" for your drafts before you finally submit assignments. The writing consultants can even coach and guide you as you brainstorm, outline or draft your writing assignments. I highly encourage you to visit the web site for more information: <http://www.ou.edu/content/writingcenter.html>.

# Course Plan ENGL 1213

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## **Unit 1: Entering the Conversation**

1. Read Lesson 1: Understanding What "They Say"
2. Complete Academic Integrity Quiz
3. Complete "Writing Resources" Quiz
4. Complete Assigned Reading
5. Complete Assignment 1A
6. Upload Assignment 1A to Dropbox Folder
7. Complete Assignment 1B
8. Swap Assignment 1B Rough Draft with Assigned Peer\*
9. Swap Completed Revision Guides with Assigned Peer
10. Revise Assignment 1B according to Peer Feedback
11. Complete Peer Experience Survey
12. Upload Assignments to Dropbox Folders in D2L

## **Unit 2: Asserting your Stance**

1. Read Lesson 2: Developing The "I Say"
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Assignment 2A
4. Upload Assignment 2A to Dropbox Folder
5. Complete Assignment 2B
6. Swap Assignment 2B Rough Draft with Assigned Peer\*
7. Swap Completed Revision Guides with Assigned Peer
8. Revise Assignment 2B according to Peer Feedback
9. Complete Peer Experience Survey
10. Upload Assignments to Dropbox Folders in D2L

## **Unit 3: Deepening the Conversation**

1. Read Lesson 3: Personal Voice & Outside Research
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Assignment 3A
4. Upload Assignment 3A to Dropbox Folder
5. Complete Assignment 3B
6. Swap Assignment 3B Rough Draft with Assigned Peer\*
7. Swap Completed Revision Guides with Assigned Peer
8. Revise Assignment 3B according to Peer Feedback
9. Complete Peer Experience Survey
10. Upload Assignments to Dropbox Folders in D2L

## **Unit 4: Widening your Expertise**

1. Read Lesson 4: Revision & Further Research

2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Assignment 4A
4. Upload Assignment 4A to Dropbox Folder
5. Complete Assignment 4B
6. Swap Assignment 4B Rough Draft with Assigned Peer\*
7. Swap Completed Revision Guides with Assigned Peer
8. Revise Assignment 4B according to Peer Feedback
9. Complete Peer Experience Survey
10. Upload Assignments to Dropbox Folders in D2L

\*In the event that your peer does not communicate with you, you are responsible to find a peer near you to review your paper.